services, such as skill upgradation and testing facilities to powerloom weavers have been upgraded with modern looms, other machinery and equipment to improve the quality of services and facilitation for modernisation.

(iv) Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers have been estabilished to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(v) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

(vi) A Special group Insurance Scheme has been approved to provide cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability.

2. Government has taken following steps to end the strike in the powerloom industry due to which many clusters are coming back to normal:

(i) Meetings have been held with the Industry representatives and associations to understand their trading practices, difficulties and apprehensions. These have been communicated to the Ministry of Finance.

(ii) Ministry of Finance have simplified the excise rules and procedures for the decentralised textile industry so as to ensure that current trade practices continue undisturbed and difficulties expressed by the trade in seeking registration, following procedures and paying taxes are sympathetically solved.

(iii) The Office of the Textile Commissioner has held meetings together with Commissionerates of Central Excise in the major textile clusters to address and agitate the industry on the fiscal changes, its repercussions and its procedural requirements.

Non-Conventional Energy Projects in Karnataka

*576. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Conventional Energy Projects being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) the quantum of the power being produced from these projects;

(c) whether MNES has fixed tariff for the projects of the power being produced by the Non-Conventional Energy producers in Karnataka;

(d) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., has withdrawn the MNES imposed tariff in Karnataka; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that more Non-Conventional Energy projects are taken up in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): ((a) and (b) The Ministry is supporting the implementation of various projects in the country, including in Karnataka, for generation of power from non-conventional energy sources such as wind, biomass, small hydro, solar and energy-from-wastes. The installed capacity of these projects in Karnataka was 417 MW, as on 31.3.2003. In addition, projects aggregating about 364 MW are under installation in the State. It is estimated that 962 million units were generated from non-conventional energy projects in the State during 2002-03.

(c) No, Sir. MNES does not fix tariff for power being produced by non-conventional energy projects as this is done by the respective States. However, MNES had issued guidelines to States including Karnataka, for providing promotional and fiscal incentives by State Governments regarding wheeling, banking, sale of power etc., wherein, MNES had recommended a purchase price of Rs. 2.25 per unit (1994-95 base year), with 5% annual escalation, for power generated from non-conventional energy sources.

(d) The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has decided to freeze the tariff at the 2001-02 level without allowing any escalation from 2002-03 onwards. The issue regarding tariff in the State is currently before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(e) Steps taken to promote non-conventional energy projects in the country, including in Karnataka, include Central Financial Assistance in the form of capital and interest subsidies for various eligible projects: fiscal incentives, such as 80% accelerated depreciation and concessional duties and taxes: and term loans from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. The Government of Karnataka has been requested to adhere to the policy guidelines regarding power purchase suggested by MNES.